Mrs. [redacted] Hawkins
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San Diego 4, Calif.

California GARDEN

SUMMER NUMBER

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To dig and delve in nice clean dirt
Can do a mortal little hurt;
To live 'mongst lush and growing things
Is like to give the spirit wings.
Who works 'mongst roses soon will find
Their fragrance budding in his mind,
And minds that sprout with roses free—
Well, that's the sort of mind for me!

—Blakney Gray.

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Summer Garden Topics

Reynard Way Camellia Gardens

We specialize in Camellias, which means that we carry only the varieties which we have tried and found will perform successfully in this area. Some Camellias may be superb in color, form, and habit of plant but if they are not at their best in San Diego County, we know it. Through time we have selected OUR choice for YOU.

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You may be amazed that so many Cymbidium plants are being grown right here in San Diego. We have the largest collection of plants in this area. You can buy any size. They range from those which are ready and sure to bloom to those which are smaller, then you can have the fun of growing them for a year or two before they bloom. Even as little as $5 will buy a sprouted back bulb though our choicest large plants are worth $250

We have the best of the Vetterle and Reinelt Select
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS.

They are difficult to obtain and have never been in as great demand.

We want you to drop in for information. Don't feel that you must buy. We are anxious to make San Diego a true Flower City. If I can interest you, you can interest your friends. Bring them in so that we may become acquainted.

2661 Reynard Way, Just off of State St.

California Garden

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Alfred C. Hottes, Editor

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"What With Roses Can Compare?"

By Clifford Tanner, Ethel Hoyt, Frank Hardy Lane, William F. Bishop and Paul Kleinsorge

It's traditional to think of Roses in June but to have good ones in our gardens we must bestow a few favors on them through the year. Five Rose lovers tell us how they coax out all the charms. They were asked a few questions and here are their answers.—Editor.

WHAT EXPOSURE DO YOU THINK THEY LIKE BEST?

Roses may be grown on all sides of the house, except perhaps west. They want morning sun and should be kept out of drafts because the wind is a source of spreading fungus troubles. Ethel Hoyt remarks: "Don't plant where a wall reflects the heat." Bishop warns that the drafts between buildings are sure to cause trouble unless one end is fully inclosed.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A SANDY SOIL?

Tanner remarks: "I would incorporate a large quantity of humus in a sandy soil, digging it in to a depth of two or three feet. Bean straw is best. This should be done some time before planting so that it has had an opportunity to decay."

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH AN ADOBE SOIL?

Adobe soils need less humus but some is desirable to break it up. Such soils hold plant food better than sandy soil and are considered better for Roses.

DO YOU LIKE ROSES GROWN ON THEIR OWN ROOTS?

When Roses are rooted from cuttings they are called "own-root" Roses and some nurserymen sell them but Kleinsorge considers them much more subject to nematodes. Madame Cecile Brunner is the best to root from cuttings at home.

HOW OLD ARE THE PLANTS WHEN THEY GIVE MAXIMUM BLOOM?

Kleinsorge says that Roses should last for eight years if given care but should be giving maximum bloom in their third or fourth year.

WHAT FEEDING PROGRAM DO YOU ADVISE?

Lane answers: "I use commercial high-test fertilizer once a month." Tanner says: "To keep a continuous crop of flowers I like to fertilize often, at least every sixty days, with a complete fertilizer besides a mulch of cow manure and bean straw on top of the soil at all times." Ethel Hoyt warns: "Don't disturb the soil around the bushes. I mulch in the Spring when growth starts, then again in late May when I stop irrigation." Bishop advocates bone meal and manure in winter immediately after pruning.

Kleinsorge considers feeding a part of Summer care and advises us to keep the soil cool during the hot Summer. Mulch with leafmold, peat, steer manure, or shredded redwood bark. At least once a month feed each plant with a handful of commercial plant food but be sure to dig it into the soil. He believes that Roses benefit by a little acid food in Summer. Peatmoss will supply some but the regular acidifying fertilizers can be used to supplement this.

DO ROSES ENJOY AN ACID OR AN ALKALINE SOIL?

The Boyce-Thompson Institute, of Yonkers, N. Y., finds that the best roses are grown on soils with a pH of 5.0 to 6.5, with the optimum 6.0 to 6.5. The Boyce-Thompson Institute also says, "It may be possible that if the nutrient balance of the soil solution is favorable, a wide pH range can be tolerated, while if the balance is bad, the pH effect may be more specific."

From this, you can see that if a complete balanced plant food is used for feeding Roses, the injurious effect of a too-acid or too-alkaline soil may be minimized to some extent. It is well to remember this in feeding our Rose plants. Feeding of bone meal to Roses in most cases has a tendency to make the soil more alkaline, and the plant food furnished by this material is poorly balanced and too slowly available to be of any immediate use.

HOW DEEP SHOULD ROSES BE PLANTED?

Tests at the Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., indicate that it makes no difference whether budded plants are planted with the union at soil-level, 2 inches above, or 4 inches below. There may be an advantage in planting at soil level, because it facilitates proper pruning.

WHICH VARIETIES ARE LESS SUBJECT TO MILDEW?

"I have little trouble with mildew," writes Lane, "if I feed well and keep

the plants moist. I can do little to prevent mildew on Dorothy Perkins."

Kleinsorge remarks that Roses which mildew should not be grown. Night and Hadley are the worst but I fear that all dark red Roses need watching.

Tanner is provoked at the question. "There are a great many varieties which are free from it, especially Etoile de Hollande, Gruss an Coburg, J. Otto Thilow, Snowbird, and Charlotte Armstrong.

WHAT DO YOU ADVISE FOR BLACK SPOT?

"I don't have black spot," proudly says Ethel Hoyt. "In Winter I burn off the foliage with lime-sulphur which kills the spores. In Spring and during the remainder of the year I use a general purpose spray once a week." "Isn't that a chore?" was asked. "It takes just 17 minutes to spray 45 Rose bushes. You must spray to prevent the black spot and other diseases because one can't control them if the bushes become infected. Rust bothers the old leaves as well as black spot."

For the past 20 years Tanner has advised very fine sulphur dust containing rotenone and has found no newer product to replace it. Dust weekly throughout the whole growing season.

"In February when I prune back, I strip the foliage, and use a strong spray of lime-sulphur on plants and ground; also burn all stray leaves," is the advice of Lane.

As a Summer spray Bishop uses a weak lime-sulphur to which he adds wettable sulphur and nicotine extract with fish-oil soap as a spreader.

DO YOU ADVISE SEVERE PRUNING AT PLANTING?

Tanner answers: "I never advise severe pruning at any time because I find that a large bush will produce as fine flowers and many more of them."

Lane writes: "When I get a dormant plant, I cut off the twigs and weak canes so as to leave three or four strong ones from twelve to eighteen inches long. I examine the roots. If they are torn or broken, I cut them off, and usually cut the ends of all the roots."

HOW MUCH PRUNING OF GROWING PLANTS DO YOU ADVISE?

Kleinsorge believes in heavy Winter pruning, cutting back to short stubs.

Lane writes: "During the blooming season, I cut the blossom back to about three eyes. I select a bud that will send the cane where I want it to go, and cut close to the bud—about an eighth of an inch above it. I do not allow the hips to develop. If the bloom comes on a cane from the ground, I cut it back so as to leave eighteen inches or two feet. Sometimes I break the bloom where it joins the foliage. A joint is there, and often the cane will send out two shoots of twelve inches in length and each will bear a flower.

"Relative to pruning of definite varieties. I prune Dame Edith Helen and Golden Emblem as little as possible. All the others I treat in the same way, cut back to the three eyes.

"Mr. Hieatt says trim back on Ground Hog day. I follow his advice. Clean off all leaves, dead wood, weak canes, and leave only the strong ones."

Ethel Hoyt believes that each shoot after Winter should be cut back two-thirds. This year the amount removed was only about one-half and there seem to be more Roses but with shorter stems. The vigor of the shoots influences the amount of pruning desirable.

WHICH VARIETIES OF CLIMBERS ARE YOUR FAVORITES?

Tanner's choice is. Cl. Etoile de Hollande, Cl. Talisman, Ednah Thomas, Captain Thomas, Cl. Mrs. Sam McGredy, Cl. Golden Dawn, Flash, and Cl. Hinrich Gaede.

Lane writes. "My best climbers are Hinrich Gaede, McGredy's Yellow, Talisman, Hadley, Pearl of the Garden, Cecil Brunner, and Mermaid. There is cream-colored rose, abundant in Chula Vista which blossoms but once a year, has hundreds of blooms. I have found no one to name it."

Bishop adds. Paul's Scarlet, Cl. Los Angeles, Cl. Hadley, Belle of Portugal, Cl. President Hoover, and Cl. Hoosier Beauty.

WHAT VARIETIES DO YOU THINK ARE IDEAL FOR SAN DIEGO?

"San Diego has one of the most ideal climates for good Roses," says Tanner. "With proper dusting, fertilizing, and watering, any of the best varieties are ideal."

Kleinsorge considers that the following are the most reliable dozen:

Boutonniere—Pink.

Charlotte Armstrong—Carmine.

Faience—Two-tone peach-pink.

Floradora—Small glowing red, excellent for the garden.

Good News—Coppery pink.

Grande Duchesse Charlotte— Coppery red.

Lowell Thomas—Deep yellow.

McGredy's Ivory—Best white. Caledonia does not open well in cloudy weather.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek— Light yellow.

Nellie E. Hillock—Large blush pink.

Rochefort—Rose pink, shaded yellow.

Snowbank—Splendid white.

Ethel Hoyt includes the following and tells why:

Autumn—True Autumn colors, lots of bloom, good sturdy bush.

Christopher Stone — Poor grower but good about the third year. Perhaps best grow Etoile de Hollande, which is so vigorous.

Dame Edith Helen—A soft pink and a poor grower. I would suggest that the climber be grown and be cut back to make it remain a bush. It has perhaps 150 petals. Flowers do open without balling.

Duquesa de Penaranda — Strong grower, a marvellous big Rose, fades a little too quickly.

Eclipse—Pale yellow, seems to need a little shade to prevent its fading.

Etoile de Hollande—Almost standard of dark red Roses. Vigorous enough to outgrow the effects of mildew.

Floradora—Bright scarlet, a Multiflora.

Grande Duchesse Charlotte— Coppery but with the texture of a soft knap fabric, disease resistant, firm foliage, long stems, good buds, and vigorous.

Joanna Hill — Buff yellow, tight buds.

J. Otto Thilow — Good buds, a strong grower so that it overcomes mildew though it gets it, a voluptuous big pink, large bush, and exceptional bloom.

Lulu — Coral pink, buds are excellent but not so good when it opens.

Madame Eduoard Herriot—A lovely apricot but a small bush and small flowers.

Mrs. Pierre S. Dupont—A prolific, good yellow. Bears too many flowers for its strength so disbud a little.

(Continued on page 7)

Fruits Just for Us — Subtropicals

By Dean F. Palmer

How long it takes people to overcome the prejudice against something new to eat. The Avocado was grown for about 70 years before it was generally accepted by the public and considered as grown on a sound commercial basis. This will probably be true to some extent with our other subtropical fruits and many of them will never be of much value from the commercial standpoint. Most of them, however, have a very definite place in our home gardens and their propagation should be encouraged.

LOQUAT

The Loquat has been an important economic fruit in the Orient since the Eighteenth Century and has become established in this country as a commercial fruit, particularly in our local markets. There is now a considerable acreage devoted to the production of Loquats. Its chief value seems to lie in the fact that it is one of the first fresh fruits on the market in the Spring and reaches the public when they are hungry for fresh fruit. The Loquat has possibilities for canning and preserving and is a tree that should be included in the larger home orchards. Some experimental work should be done to develop larger fruit with smaller seeds. A single seeded variety has already been developed, and as the quality of this fruit is improved, its popularity should increase.

FEIJOA

The Feijoa has not yet proved of much commercial value, but is useful in landscaping for its decorative gray foliage and exotic flowers and serves a double purpose as a food plant. The fruit is delectable when used just as it drops from the plant and when eaten at this time is extremely refreshing. The petals of the flowers may be used as a flavorful and delightful garnish on early Summer salads. The petals may be removed without injuring the fruit set. The Feijoa is said to have medicinal value as a mild cathartic and should be included in every home garden, as it does not take up a great deal of space.

CHERIMOYA

The Cherimoya has proven itself to have commercial possibilities. There is some demand for it in stores handling exotic foods and also to some extent in health food stores, which should be greatly increased with the development of air transportation. Many people who have lived in the tropics have developed a taste for Cherimoyas and are glad to have an opportunity to purchase them. More experimental work should be done on this fruit to develop varieties with reliable bearing habits. It is quite sensitive to cold and should only be planted in the more protected locations.

MACADAMIA OR QUEENSLAND NUTS

There are now several small plantings of the Macadamia nut in southern California. The delicious flavor and high nutritional character of the nut has given it considerable popularity. It has been grown on a commercial basis in Australia and the Hawaiian Islands for many years. This plant seems to offer considerable commercial possibilities in southern California, as it can apparently be grown successfully in the Avocado belt on soils which are not suited to the growing of Avocados. When extensive plantings are made, proper facilities should be developed for processing. Processing usually consists of husking, drying, cracking, grading, dehydrating, cooking, salting, and proper storage. Macadamia is a very ornamental tree and has a definite place as such in our landscapes. The nuts are very edible without the elaborate processing customary when they are packed for commercial use. Therefore, a back yard tree will provide a great deal of beauty as well as an interesting food.

There exist in Hawaii two distinct types of Macadamia: the roughshell (*Macadamia ternifolia*) and the smooth-shell (*Macadamia ternifolia* var. *integrifolia*). The industry in Hawaii is based on the smooth-shell type which makes up the entire commercial pack, except for small exports of nuts in the shell. This type is more or less everbearing and for that reason is considered desirable by some for backyard plantings.

The trees usually begin to bear in 5 to 8 years from time of planting. They are healthy, vigorous, and are easily grown in most sections of southern California. There is considerable variation in their ability to withstand frost. Macadamia is a beautiful ornamental tree and when you consider its crop of delicious nuts, it becomes doubly valuable. This tree is worthy of our attention and experimental work with it should be started as soon as possible.

WHITE SAPOTE

The White Sapote is another tree which has very distinct ornamental value as well as being one of our most delicious and promising subtropicals. It should be used more extensively as a backyard tree. It is at its best when properly matured on the tree and used in prime condition. It thrives on relatively poor soils. Its quality seems to improve when given a minimum amount of water and fertilizer. There are varieties now available, such as the Suebelle, which bear fruit throughout the entire year. They supply to the home table a delicious fruit for salads, cocktails, or to be eaten out of hand. The Sapote has considerable commercial possibilities, as it will no doubt be in great demand when it becomes better known, and air transportation should greatly extend its market. It is now found only in stores handling exotic foods and health food stores or in stores patronized extensively by the Mexican people, as they have, through many years of use, developed an appreciation for this fruit. Medicinal qualities which the Sapote is said to have should be explored. It is a very delicious fruit when used as a conserve or preserved by other methods. It has about 25 percent sugar. The Sapote is a strong growing tree, considerably hardier than most of our other subtropical fruits. It usually starts bearing 3 or 4 years after planting. Most varieties are hardy down to about 20 degrees.

AFRICAN CARISSA or NATAL PLUM

The African Carissa is a very ornamental shrub which, because of its sharp thorns, makes an impenetrable hedge. It produces small attractive white Jasmine-like flowers which are very ornamental. The fruit from our better plants is delicious when made into a sauce and as such it rivals the Cranberry. This plant has a definite place in our southern California horticulture.

GUAVA

The tropical Guava has proved to be extremely high in vitamin "C" and is used quite extensively in jellies and Guava paste. More experimental work should be carried on with this fruit to

(Continued on page 6)

You Will See These Bulbs—If You Look

By J. N. Giridlian

Almost everyone has the usual Spring-flowering bulbs and when Summer comes they grow Gladiolus and Dahlias but we asked J. N. Giridlian, of Arcadia, California, to tell us about some less commonly seen. — Editor.

AGAPANTHUS, Lily-of-the-Nile.

These blue flowered bulbous plants are grown widely as tub plants in the remainder of the United States but we can grow them outdoors in our gardens. Give them full sun or light shade. Any soil seems to do, but heavy soil is better. They may be transplanted at any time. I have never fed them. They are thrifty growers and multiply only too fast without feeding. They also do not flower so profusely if fed too much. They are shallow rooted and resent cultivation. Too much water also makes them bloom less.

ANIGOZANTHOS, Kangaroo-paw.

These curious flowers resembling the paw of an animal come from Australia and the flowers and stems are covered with a yellowish wool. The plants are like an iris growing 3 feet tall. They bloom in June. They want the same culture as tall bearded Iris, full sun, heavy soil, and a moderate amount of moisture.

ALSTROEMERIA. Peruvian Lily.

The huge clusters of bloom on these exquisite South American plants are yellow, orange, red and white. In form they are like a Gladiolus upside down but they are produced in clusters. Most, if not all, require full sun or light shade. They should have sandy soil enriched with humus. Avoid alkaline water or soil. Acid soil suits them best. Deep planting is recommended. Four to six inches deep. Where the roots are long as in *A. violacea,* the tubers may be planted on their sides for convenience. The new roots will grow down.

MORAEA

These are the plants which are easily mistaken for Iris but they are rather more continuous blooming and the commonest one sends out flowers unexpectedly from old flower stems after one feels that they have surely done all they will. Of the true Moraeas, the kinds that grow from corms, the best garden varieties are *ramosa, glaucopis, edulis and rolystachya.* Of the rhizomatous kinds (Dietes), *irodioides johnsoni, bicolor,* and Oakhurst Hybrids are to be recommended.

CULTURE OF MORAEAS

The corms should be planted in the Fall and ordinary garden care given. They will grow and flower without any special attention. The seed pods of *M. polystachya* should not be allowed to ripen as they are apt to sprout all over the garden and become pests. The Dietes will grow anywhere and under any and all conditions. Just plant and forget.

PANCRATIUM. Sea-daffodil.

These are white flowered bulbs with trumpet-like centers as a Daffodil has. *Pancratium maritimum* is the only kind I have grown. It is a fast grower and should not be heavily fertilized if at all. Plant in full sunlight and allow to dry out in the summer. This will encourage flower production. Bulbs that are well cared for do not flower. Dig the bulbs and replant the mother bulbs every third year. The bulblets may be planted separately for propagation.

KNIPHOFIA. Redhotpoker. Torchlily.

Like great stems of firecrackers some of the Kniphofias are scarlet, others yellow.

Some of the newer Kniphofias are superb for Summer. The modern kinds have a wide range of color, form and size. They are easy growers and the dwarf varieties are fine for cutting, while the taller kinds are useful for landscape effect.

WATSONIA

These plants are like taller but smaller Gladiolus. There are many sorts besides the usual white and rose-colored sorts seen commonly around San Diego.

The evergreen Watsonias, such as *beatricis, galpini, longifolia,* and *tanularis,* are summer flowering and very beautiful. Being evergreen, they are not unsightly when not in flower and may be planted in the perennial border. The range of color runs through the warm shades of pink salmon, apricot, orange, red, crimson.

Where there is lots of room, Crinums and *Amarcrinum* or *Crinodonna howardi* are recommended. The Amarcrinum is a cross between the rose-colored common Belladonna-lily and *Crinum moorei.* It is a soft pink.

Million Dollar Industry Capable of Expansion

By John D'Alfonso

San Diego is seen as the flower capital of the world by County Agricultural Commissioner Dean Palmer.

An all-out program should be launched to encourage expansion of the flower industry which totaled $1,043,000 in 1945, Palmer said. It includes approximately 200 nurseries, employs around 2000 people, and covers an area of 300 acres, mostly around Carlsbad, Oceanside, Encinitas and Vista.

"Our County is the only place in the United States credited by the U. S. Department of Agriculture with having 365 days of growing weather each year," Palmer said.

"We're overlooking a big bet if we don't take advantage of this. Air transport is opening up a whole new agricultural frontier.

"It's becoming cheaper to raise flowers here, outdoors, and ship them east by air, than it is to raise them in expensively maintained greenhouses in the colder climates. We could ship our flowers all over the world."

Palmer would like to see them prominently displayed at conventions, and in hotels and restaurants.

"I'd also like to see the Convention Bureau or similar organizations pin a fresh flower on visiting delegates," he said. "I lived in Hawaii for three years and the one thing that sticks in my mind is the many beautiful ways in which flowers and leis are used there in welcoming visitors."

As part of his plan to make this a "city of flowers," Palmer urged:

Numerous flower shows similar to prewar affairs conducted by the San Diego Begonia and Floral Societies.

Prizes for beautiful yard.

Welcoming gifts of flowers to airline and steamship firms here.

Teaching of flower growing and appreciation in City, County and adult night schools.

Creation of a laboratory to explore possibility of using local flowers for perfume and medicinal purposes.

Encouragement of commercial flower growers from all over the nation to settle in this county.

"One of the best things we could do," Palmer said, "is to encourage the flower growers in Carsbald to hold open house when their fields blossom.

I Wish to Glorify the Flowers of the World

By Alfred C. Hottes

The flower is the climax of the plant. It is its reason for being.

CONSIDER THE INNUMERABLE PATTERNS

Some are as simple as the Calla or the Flax; some are so complicated that the human artist conceives nothing more intricate. Like some intricate production of Benvenuto Cellini, the Passionflower is the epitome of complexity. Beside the hinged, glowing gold stamens there is a row of elaborately striped papillae in the center of the flower, and inside of these are several series of tiny pin-points which would defy the goldsmith or the painter.

Of all odd flowers that of the Bird-of-Paradise is one of the strangest. The curious flowers contain the six primary and secondary colors: red, yellow, and blue, blended into orange, green, and violet. The buds emerge one after another to form a red bordered, boat-like structure and seem to be surrounded by a thin, white of egg. As soon as one flower withers another slips out to take its place. It's easy to imagine that the flowers resemble the head of a gay bird with a large, blue beak, parted in the middle but hiding the stamens and the pistils. The botanist has named this plant *Strelitzia reginae* in honor of Queen Charlotte Sophia, of the family of Mecklinburg-Strelitz, a patron of botany and the wife of the notorious King George III.

Some flowers remind us of the work of a master sculptor. The Holy Ghost Orchid might have been carved by Michelangelo from ivory. Within this flower is a true, white dove, ready for flight. The Spanish call it *El Espiritu Santo*. It is a native of Panama.

The casual observer passes by the flowers of the Bishopscap, but the exploring naturalist carries a magnifying glass which reveals its true charm, for each flower is like a dainty and delicate snowflake.

Everyone who sees the Pelicanflower for the first time is amazed at its form. It is 18 inches wide, 22 inches long, and has a tail which is often nearly a yard long. It is known as *Aristolochia grandiflora sturtevanti*. The flowers are brownish purple, and it is a member of a very odd family, of which the Dutchmans-pipe is its sister. Another sister resembles a bird's head, and a brother has three tails, whereas another has two long lobes which resemble a donkey's ears. When we look at this family we are sure to smile, for it would seem as if we were at the zoo. You can almost hear the flowers say, "Wherever I look I see people admiring beautiful flowers, but they only laugh at me and say, 'Look at the goose'."

CONSIDER THE FRAGRANCE

It is comparatively simple to describe the form or the color of an object, but it is very much less possible to describe its fragrance, for we can only express it by comparison to something else with the same odor. But scents are so characteristic that we remember them for many, many years.

Who can forget the first time they smelled an Orange grove? Or the freshness of Sweet Peas? Or the cloying odor of Daphne? Or the delicacy of the Trailing-arbutus as we kneel and sink our nose into a patch of them? Who can forget the unusual pungency of the Herb-robert, a wild Geranium with red leaves growing throughout much of our eastern woods.

Certain fragrances strike us as being quite fresh and clean, as that of a Daffodil. And I always think of Calendulas as smelling like clean clothes. The very mention of certain odors connotes in the mind lovely incidents in our lives—Violets, Lily-of-the-valley, Heliotrope, Mignonette, Magnolia, and so many others. Who was it that compared the Mignonette to an actress who has an ordinary face but a glorious voice?

We hardly notice the tiny flowers of the Sweet Olive, for they attest their presence only by their delightful fragrance.

CONSIDER THE SHY FLOWERS

—flowers which hide themselves. To the mind comes the lurid, earthy, dull, purplish flowers of the *Aspidistra,* or Cast-iron-plant, which are found at the surface of the soil and so closely resembles it that the casual observer would attest that he has never known this plant to bloom.

There is the three-lobed purplish maroon cup of the Wildginger. Then, all of us remember that Violets produce not only the pretty flowers which we admire and pick in the springtime, but also during the summer green flowers are borne which never open but seem like giant seedpods.

CONSIDER THE GIANT FLOWERS OF THE WORLD

The huge 12-inch flowers of the Umbrella Magnolia; the gaudy flowers of the Marvel Marshmallows; like the skirts of flamboyant dancing girls are the flowers of the Oriental Poppies; and like the dress of a bride is the Matillija, or Canyonpoppy.

There is the ill-smelling Devils-tongue, with its huge cone one foot across. There is one species of this plant, known as *Amorphophallus titanum,* which has bloomed several times in the Kew Gardens and once in the New York Botanic Garden. Of course you have heard of Teddy Roosevelt's historic "big stick". In this plant there is a big stick six feet tall rising from the center of the flower, and this is surrounded by a cornucopia three feet in diameter resembling tanned calfskin. The flower lasts only a few hours and then dies to the soil, and then the leaf stalk appears, which is sometimes ten feet long. The underground tubers are sometimes five feet in diameter and are like giant cheeses often weighing fifty pounds. The blossom has the odor of decayed flesh sprinkled with burnt sugar.

Think of a flower that weighs fifteen pounds, is three feet in diameter, and yet has no leaves, hardly any roots, and almost no stem. Such a flower is the Rafflesia. The cup in the center of the flower holds twelve pints of water. There are five petals, brick colored, and over one foot long. The Rafflesia produces both male and female flowers. The male flowers have a huge pistil of golden-orange which seems "like a blaze of fire in a bowl of punch". Imagination would lead us to feel that this must be the flower of a very large tree, but in this case our imagination cannot be trusted, for the blossoms are produced flat on the ground because this plant is a parasite on the roots of the Cissus, which is related to the Grape. Alas, the flower has a bad odor—that of decaying flesh. The seeds are carried on the feet of elephants, which abound in the regions

where the Rafflesia is grown. It was discovered in 1818 in Sumatra by Dr. Joseph Arnold, a youthful botanist who accompanied Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles in his exploration of Sumatra. On his return a shipwreck cut short the life of Dr. Arnold, but the flower was described by Sir Thomas and he called it *Rafflesia arnoldi.*

CONSIDER THE SLUGGISH PLANTS

They come into bloom very late in life and then die.

The Centuryplant grows year after year. Slowly it stores its food, its leaves become larger and larger, and then, without warning, the plant sends up a flower head often twenty feet above the soil. The flowers are greenish, and although they are produced in a huge cluster, one can only wish they were more flamboyant after waiting so long.

I wish to glorify the flower which serves its purpose, whatever it may be. Flowers are here that we may plant them, understand them, and improve them.

When to Cut Roses

You can add as much as 10 hours to the length of life of cut Roses by disregarding the commonly given advice to cut flowers in the early morning while the dew is on the petals. Research studies during the past year in the Floriculture Department at Cornell have sown that Roses cut at 4:30 p. m. kept 7.3 per cent, or 7.4 hours, longer than roses cut at 8:00 a. m. During hot weather, the afternoon cutting increased keeping time 11.4 per cent, or 9.9 hours.

Roses cut at any time of day kept as long as those cut early in the morning. We do not know, of course, whether this is true for other flowers.

As long ago as 1908, French investigators discovered that the concentration of sugar in cut Roses is one of the most important influences that determines the length of life of cut Roses. Leaves make sugar when the sun shines. The later in the day the Roses are cut, the longer they should keep because of this increased sugar concentration.

You cannot increase the length of life of cut flowers merely by adding sugar to the water after the flowers are cut. Sugar in the water greatly increases bacterial growth in the water. Bacteria can completely plug the water-conducting elements in the stem.

War and Beauty

[Written in 1918 by Reginald Farrer, this excerpt from "The Rainbow Bridge" will give us something to think about. It was written in the mountains of the Orient.]

And if, amid the cataclysms that clamour round us everywhere nowadays, you declare that all this babble about beauty and flowers is a vain impertinence, then I must tell you that you err, and that your perspectives are false. *Mortal dooms and dynasties are brief things, but beauty is indestructible and eternal,* if its tabernacle be only in a petal that is shed tomorrow. Wars and agonies are shadows only cast across the path of man: each successive one seems the end of all things but man perpetually emerges and goes forward, lured always and cheered and inspired by the immortal beauty-thought that finds form in all the hopes and enjoyments of life. *Inter arma silent flores* is no truth; on the contrary, amid the crash of doom our sanity and survival more than ever depends on the strength with which we can listen to the small still voice that towers above the cannons, and cling to the little quiet things of life, the things that come and go and yet are there, the inextinguishable lamps of God amid the disaster which man has made of his life.

Cobaea

Why do we not see the Cobaea or Cup-and-saucer-vine planted more often? It is not uncommon for it to make eighteen feet of growth from seed in a year. The clean dainty foliage is composed of several pairs of leaflets ending in a twining branched tendril. When the vines have grown six or eight feet they produce their attractive bells which are clear green in bud becoming light violet and changing to rosy purple as they open. Each bloom is several inches across. When you purchase the seed you will note that it is flat and this may indicate that it should be pressed edgewise into the soil in order that its roots and shoot may emerge with the least difficulty. It likes a rich soil deeply prepared in order that it may make its maximum growth. It wants warm sunny places so that it is wise to put it on a south wall or a fence which is exposed to the air and sun.—A. C. H.

Fruits Just for Us

(Continued from page 3)

develop the best means of utilizing its high vitamin C content.

PERSIMMON

There are two general types of Persimmons: astringent and non-astringent. Both have considerable possibilities as fresh fruits. The astringent Persimmons have a higher sugar content and have continued to be the most popular. However, the non-astringent types are used extensively, as they are very decorative and impart a delicious flavor and interesting color to fruit salads. The astringent Persimmon has good commercial possibilities for dehydration purposes. Dehydrated Persimmons are delicious and compare favorably with other dried fruits.

TUNA (Pricklypear Cactus Apples)

This fruit is relished by people from the Mediterranean countries and is in particular demand by the Italian people living in the East. There is one large commercial planting of this fruit in San Diego county which seems to be sufficient to supply the present demand.

CATTLEY GUAVA

There are two forms of the Cattley Guava, commonly known as the Strawberry Guava. One is yellow fruited, the other a deep red. Both should be planted more extensively in back yards, as they are unexcelled for use in jellies and whips. There are several commercial plantings which seem to be sufficient to supply the present demand. Anyone planting this fruit on an extensive scale should be in a position to make it into jelly and to market it in its preserved form, since the market for this fruit is quite limited and the fruits are perishable.

PASSIFLORA (Purple Passionfruit)

It has been grown quite extensively for the manufacture of fruit juices. It makes a delicious product and will, no doubt, have a limited place as a commercial fruit in southern California. One or two plants do not take up a great deal of room and are very interesting and useful. *Passiflora edulis* should be used more extensively for backyard planting. They make a good covering for fences.

MANGO

Captain L. L. Bucklew of Encinitas is exploring the possibilities of Mango raising in southern California, and is now the outstanding authority in southern California on this fruit.

Hibiscus

INTERESTING USES

In China the women dye their hair and eyebrows with the petals of the Chinese Hibiscus because in the disintegration of the flower it turns jet black and has also been used as an ingredient of shoe-blacking. The various Oriental spirituous liquors are colored with the blossoms. The blue in the flowers acts like litmus paper, changing to red when treated with acid and back to blue when treated with an alkaline substance. The bark is used as emmenagogue. Incidentally, the cut flowers last just as well when they are not in water and therefore they are frequently arranged by mounting them at the end of fine wires or special reeds which some florists have for sale.

SPECIES

There are numerous species of Hibiscus, in fact Bailey says perhaps there are 200, and of these species there are no doubt 200 varieties bearing names.

Chinese Hibiscus, Rose-of-China, Shoe-blacking-plant, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis,* grows to be a large shrub or tree even 30 feet high. It produces very showy flowers in any section of the state which is safe from heavy frost. It is, however, at its best along the coast. The leaves are broad-ovate to narrow-ovate, not lobed, and many of the numerous varieties can be rather accurately identified from the foliage by those who know these plants well.

The Fringed Hibiscus, *H. schizopetalus,* is less hardy than the Chinese Hibiscus and can only be grown in frost-free regions. It makes a large shrub with drooping branches and does not bloom until the plants are large or have attained some age. The flowers are red or orange-red, 3 inches across, and the 5 recurved petals are divided again and again into narrow divisions. The graceful, staminal column is a mere thread which is wafted in the breeze. The leaves are elliptical, 2 to 3 inches long. This species comes to us from Africa and is without doubt one of the most dainty flowers in existence.

Occasionally one comes upon plants of the deciduous Bush, althea, Rose-of Sharon, *H. syriacus,* a shrub which is much grown in colder climates, but because the colors of the Chinese Hibiscus are so far superior and the flowers so much larger, this species is only admired in the frosty areas. Many of the colors are rather dirty magentas but good single and double varieties are available.

VARIETIES

One has difficulty choosing varieties of Hibiscus but perhaps the reader would be disappointed if a few of them were not mentioned which might guide him when he goes to a nursery. There is no reason why the nondescript, nameless sorts should be raised when we now have so many superior single and double hybrids available.

Agnes Gault: This is one of the most widely planted singles, a bright salmon-rose.

Aloha: Double, pink, very large.

Bali (Crown of Bohemia): Double, golden-orange, large.

California Gold: Canary-yellow, carmine-rose in throat, a single.

Honolulu: Single, shrimp-pink, gold lined.

Brilliant (San Diego Red): Large, scarlet, single, commonly planted.

Luna: Creamy amber, overlaid with tones of cream and coral; single, large.

Pele (Coral Reefs): Rounded flowers of bright copper, suffused cerise, under side of petals edged gold. It is more dwarf than many sorts, good for tubs.

Purity: Medium size, pure white flowers, fragrant. A variety of the species *arnottianus,* native to the Hawaiian Islands. Grows to 20 feet, deciduous in Winter.

White Wings: Large, narrow white petals with maroon eye and crimson column. Used for hedges.

I have chosen these varieties from Evans and Reeves, "Sunset," July 1942, and Coolidge.

CULTURE

Plant Hibiscus in full sun. They seem to tolerate a slightly acid or an alkaline soil. They will not stand water which accumulates around the plants during the Winter so that adequate drainage must always be provided. Feeding the plants every month during the spring and summer will increase their foliage and flower effect. Using a mulch of leafmold or manure will keep them from suffering from drouth in Summer.

Relative to the hardiness "Sunset" remarks:

Where Winter temperatures remain above 28 degrees, the Hibiscus, with its rich, glossy foliage, is valuable as background, screen, or hedge material, as well as pot and tub subjects.

Where temperatures drop below 28 degrees treat them like Fuchsias, Lantanas, and other tender shrubs. If Winter weather injures the tops, cut them back to within 4 inches of the ground as soon as danger of frost is past. Luxuriant growth comes up rapidly and produces heavy blooms by summer. Where temperatures drop below 18 degrees, a 4-inch mulch of straw or leafmold will protect the roots from freezing. (Where evergreen, no pruning other than for shaping the plant is necessary.)

PRUNING

It is possible to prune old plants and ones which are loose in habit very severely, cutting them back to mere stubs, in which case they will be rejuvenated. It also is possible to more or less shear the plants into good form. All such work should be done in April. Pruning in Winter is likely to kill or set back the plants for an entire season.

REFERENCES

Bailey "Hortus". Hoyt. Armstrong. Jack Evans. Coolidge.

What With Roses Can Compare?

(Continued from page 2)

Picture — Warm pink, small bush, small perfect flowers. If given good care it is tops for a small garden.

Soeur Therese — Chrome yellow, crimson outside the buds, medium size, strong grower. Shows its Persian Yellow blood because of its spicy fragrance, small thorns, and tendency to drop its leaves in Summer. I was going to eliminate this but it blooms so well.

Souvenir de Claudius Pernet—A favorite with me because of the crape petals, shiny foliage, and intense yellow flowers.

The Doctor — Clear pink, a weak grower, immense flowers.

Ville de Paris — Yellow, really mildew resistant, few petals but flowers look full, blooms early.

If you are a rose enthusiast, join the American Rose Society. They publish so much information of interest to the amateur and experienced grower alike that we are sure you will feel the investment is good. Address American Rose Society, Harrisburg, Pa.

Summer Garden Topics

Now is the time to sow perennial seeds in San Diego. There are a great number of kinds for the Northwest and fewer sorts which thrive as we reach the cold-winterless San Diego. It seems that perennials are generally more successful from fresh newly ripened seed — especially Delphiniums and Oriental Poppies. To help you check the catalogs and seed stores, choose the following perennials and biennials to sow now: Anchusa, Aquilegia, Aubretia, English Daisy, Hollyhocks, Forget-me-nots, Pansies, Pinks, Primroses, Pyrethrum, Siberian Wallflower and Viola.

Choose the best loose soil you can find in the garden or concoct it from equal parts of leafmold, sand, and garden loam. Sow the seeds as carefully as you know how as the seed is expensive. Keep it moist enough to insure germination. It is not done by flooding the bed with water but by conserving it in the soil by the use of burlap or cloth shading. When the seedlings are just large enough to handle they should be transplanted so as to give them more space.

A FEW FOOD GARDEN HINTS

Did you ever try Leeks? The seed is generally sown in some good spot and the tiny seedlings are transplanted about 3 inches apart. Choose extra-special good soil and as the plants grow hill up the soil about the rows. Eventually the plants will have grown so tall that soil is not sufficient, then a piece of paper wrapped around each stalk will cause them to bleach and become more toothsome. Leeks are indeed an epicure's vegetable.

Late potatoes are now to be sprayed with bordeaux to prevent disease. Early potatoes are dug when their tops turn yellow.

Sow parsley for winter garnishings.

Cut herbs before they become too matured and woody. Hang them upside down to dry.

As the leaf crops pass, follow them with root sorts and vice versa. The same sort of crop should always be rotated.

Grow kale where winters are mild as it can be harvested all winter.

Waste not, want not—this is indeed the slogan of the wise gardenfolk. They learn how to can, dry, store and otherwise preserve the products of the garden. It's so easy to let the excess go to waste during a time of abundance.

HYDRANGEAS

The ample foliage and flowers of the hydrangeas will demand a lot of water. You can't overdo this if the soil is sufficiently loose so that water does not stand in puddles on it.

YES, IT'S TIME TO THINK OF SWEET PEAS

For the earliest fall and winter Sweet Peas, sow now and again in September—between these two sowings you have a glorious crop from the middle of October throughout the entire winter. Choose the early Spencer, or winterflowering, varieties. Dig out a two-foot trench, fill it with enriched, good soil, and let it settle for several weeks, then sow the seeds in furrows 5 inches deep but cover the seeds only an inch deep. This furrow will gradually fill with soil as the peas are cultivated.

DELPHINIUMS

The flowers are about past, you don't want seed as you can buy better, so cut off the old flower stems of the Delphiniums and encourage the growth of new stems from the soil. All of these will bloom this fall if the plants are fed and watered.

DROUTH DEMANDERS

Some of the loveliest native plants of California are the very ones which are the easiest to grow—and easiest to kill. Easiest to grow if we refrain from coddling them with water when they don't want it—and easiest to kill if plants in beds of shrubs and flowers which demand the normal moist conditions. Fremontias and the ever-welcome California-lilacs, Ceanothus, are incomparable. Buy them in cans and tubs. Set them in such spots as you know never become soggy with water neither Summer nor Winter. They are sure to thrive where exotic things are impossible. In such spots we can water and feed until they become established and then in the subsequent years they will increase in charm.

HUMID ATMOSPHERE

The reason that Tuberous Begonias, Fuchsias, and Rex Begonias are so good along the immediate coast is that fogs bathe them daily with their required amount of atmospheric humidity. Continue to feed these plants for they are now just in the stage where they can utilize it best.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

From early this month most mums must not be pinched back any longer for they will soon be setting their buds. Give them a weekly feeding to increase the quality of the buds as well as the foliage. Provide stakes because it's strange how much better things grow when they are supported.

POT PLANTS

The patios of our city are filled with struggling potbound plants and one so seldom sees a luxuriant specimen which shows that the plants have been watered and fed and re-potted to larger pot as the plants demand it. Yes, I mean even geraniums—how glorious a plant of the brilliant Maxime Kavaleski can be! How far superior the lovely soft salmon-pink Emile Zola is for him who watches it to see that it is getting neither too much sun nor too much shade. But there is a great range of shrubs as well which we see far too seldom in pots and tubs—various Hebes, dwarf Pomegranate, *Raphiolepis delacouri, Solanum rantonneti,* and *Impatiens olivieri.*

ANTS

Oldtimers know that to the garden lover ants are not just busy little objects of Nature to be admired for their industry and socialism, for to us they are a real menace carrying plant lice, scale, and mealy bug to all our choicest plants. You will have much less trouble with these insects if you do everything in your power to get rid of the ants, and that garden which is without its quota of ant cups is one usually infested with every known type of pest. Get rid of the ants and the lady-bugs will clean up on the plant lice and scale, but the lady-bugs soon become discouraged when the ants bring a new supply of food to the plant lice every day.

AVOCADOS AND CITRUS FRUITS

The bark of the trunks and branches are easily injured by the sun. By erecting a cheesecloth screen on the sunny side you will prevent such injury.

In planting these trees, as well as the Loquats, Cherimoyas, and Sapotas, it is well to prepare holes larger than the balls of earth with which the trees are shipped from the nursery. It is never necessary to remove the burlap for in so doing one is likely to disturb the root system. Merely loosen the twine and set the ball at about the same depth as it was originally growing in the nursery. A little extra good soil surrounding the ball will be appreciated by the trees. Stamp soil firmly with feet, and water sufficiently to be sure that there are no air spaces beneath or around the ball.

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